QuickAlerts Messages September 2016

QuickAlerts –September 1, 2016
Subject: Scheduled maintenance begins September 3, 2016

The IRS will conduct its annual Labor Day systems maintenance outage beginning Saturday, September 3, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. ET and ending on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. ET.

The AATS and Production environments will be unavailable during the maintenance.

Please refrain from accessing the AIR System for both the A2A and UI Channels during this period.

QuickAlerts –September 6, 2016
Subject: Update - ACA Information Return (AIR) Maintenance

The UI channel is unavailable for both the AATS and Production environments, until further notice. Please refrain from accessing both these environments through the UI Channel.

During this period, the A2A channel will remain available for both AATS and Production.

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience in this matter.

QuickAlerts –September 6, 2016
Subject: Update - Modernized e-File (MeF) Power Outage for Labor Day Weekend

The IFA channel is not available for the ATS and Production environments until further notice. The A2A channel is available for both environments.

Please refrain from accessing the MeF Systems via the IFA channel.

We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your patience in this matter.

QuickAlerts –September 6, 2016
Subject: Exempt Organization Schemas and Business Rules for Filing Season 2017

Starting in August Modernized e-File (MeF) schemas and business rules will be no longer be available through IRS.gov and will be delivered with a more secure and controlled process. Distribution will be through the Registered User Portal - eServices Secure Object Repository (SOR) for delivery to the software providers starting in mid-September. Software providers will use their existing eServices account to pick up the schemas and business rules packages. The IRS will send QuickAlerts messages letting users know that the schemas and business rule packages are in their SOR accounts and ready for pick-up.

The IRS understands the importance of getting the schemas and business rules distributed to the Software community as soon as they are ready so we will be using a manual process through the MeF Mailbox until the automated solution is available.

The 990x (990, 990-EZ, 990-PF), 990-N, 8868 and 1120-POL, schemas and business rules are available to Authorized Users listed on e-File applications for Software Developers and States. Please

contact the [MeF Mailbox](#) with the Company Name, your Authorized User role and ETIN to request Form 990x (990, 990-EZ, 990-PF), 990-N, 1120-POL or 8868 version 2016v1.1. These schemas and business rules are not valid for MeF ATS or Production environments.

QuickAlerts –September 6, 2016
Subject: Completed - ACA Information Return (AIR) Maintenance

The extended maintenance for the AIR AATS and Production UI environments has been completed. The AIR UI system is now operational. All service requests are operational and production has resumed.

Thank you for your patience and support.

QuickAlerts –September 6, 2016
Subject: Update - Modernized e-File (MeF) Power Outage for Labor Day Weekend

The IFA Channel for ATS and Production environments is now available for use.

We apologize for any inconvenience. Thank you for your patience and support.

QuickAlerts –September 7, 2016
Subject: Scheduled Maintenance for the ACA Information Return (AIR) System

The AIR System will be performing scheduled maintenance starting at 8:00 a.m. Eastern on September 10, 2016, through 7:59 a.m. Eastern on September 11, 2016.

The AATS and Production environments will be unavailable during the maintenance. Please refrain from accessing the AIR System for both the A2A and UI Channels during this period.

QuickAlerts –September 14, 2016
Subject: Extended Maintenance Window for MeF Production and ATS Environment

All times in this communication are Eastern

The MeF maintenance build window is being extended this weekend.

- Saturday, September 17, 2016 from 12:01 a.m. through 1:00 p.m.
- Sunday, September 18, 2016 from 12:01 a.m. through 1:00 p.m.

The build will deploy critical system updates. This extended window affects the MeF Production and ATS Environment.

Thank you in advance for refraining from accessing the MeF Production and ATS System during this period.

QuickAlerts –September 15, 2016
Subject: ACA Information Returns (AIR) Working Group Meeting on September 20, 2016

The next ACA Information Returns (AIR) Working Group Meeting (webinar) will be held:

Tuesday, September 20, 2016
The conference begins at 3:00 Eastern Time
Dial-in: 1-877-369-5243 Passcode: 0498492# (Enter the access code on your telephone keypad, followed immediately by the # symbol to bypass system prompts)

This will be a Technical Webinar to cover changes for Filing Season 2017. This Webinar will not address Tax Law or Policy issues related to the AIR Program.

You may join the teleconference 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start. You must register to attend the webinar. Participants should register for the webinar no later than 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time on the day of the event.

To register for this event, use the following link:

Webinar Registration

If clicking the above link does not work, please copy the entire link and paste it into your web browser. A confirmation email will be sent within 24 hours of registration.

This virtual session will focus on General Affordable Care Act Information Returns (AIR) Program topics. At the conclusion of the presentation, there will be a live question and answer period with IRS presenters.

You may use your computer speakers to listen to the webinar or use the teleconference number provided above. To avoid background noise, please do not use both the computer speakers and the teleconference number.

The presentation for this meeting will be posted to the AIR Program Overview Page prior to the meeting. An additional QuickAlerts message will be issued when the presentation is posted.

NOTE: The intended audiences of these meetings are Transmitters, Software Developers and Issuers/Payers.

If you are a business owner, tax manager, employee benefits manager, health coverage provider, or software developer or transmitter, you can access and review the **Affordable Care Act Information Returns Corrections Process** video on the IRS Video Portal..

QuickAlerts –September 15, 2016
Subject: New Process for Delivering Schema and Business Rules for MeF

Starting TY2016/PY2017 Modernized e-File (MeF) schemas and business rules are no longer available through IRS.gov and will be delivered with a more secure and controlled process.

Distribution will be through the Registered User Portal and your e-services mailbox. This mailbox is part of the Secure Object Repository (SOR) and will be used for delivering schemas and business rules to software providers starting in mid-September. Software providers will use their mailbox in their existing e-services account to pick up the schema and business rules packages.

The IRS will send QuickAlerts messages letting users know that the schema and business rule packages are in their SOR accounts and ready for pick-up. Instructions for accessing your SOR mailbox account will be sent with these QuickAlerts messages.

In order to receive the distribution of schema packages you must have an active e-services account and be listed on an e-File application with the provider option of Software Developer. Your role must be Principal, Responsible Official, or a Delegated User with MeF authorities. If you are a registered user in e-services and are listed on a State e-File application you will receive this distribution.

We encourage you to review your e-File application at this time to verify you have the appropriate role and to verify you have access to your e-services account.

Note: If you have never registered for e-services or previously registered and forgotten your password visit Registration Services.

QuickAlerts –September 15, 2016
Subject: Scheduled Maintenance September 17, 2016 and September 18, 2016

The IRS will conduct systems maintenance outage on Saturday, September 17, 2016, from 12:00 A.M. ET to 12:00 P.M. ET. In addition, there will be an extended maintenance outage on Sunday, September 18, 2016, from 12:00 A.M. ET to 12:00 P.M. ET.

The AATS and Production environments will be unavailable during the maintenance. Please refrain from accessing the AIR System for both the A2A and UI Channels during these maintenance periods.

QuickAlerts –September 20, 2016
Subject: Update for the ACA Information Returns (AIR) Working Group Meeting on September 20, 2016

The September 20, 2016 (AIR) Working Group Meeting (Webinar) Presentation materials have been posted on the AIR Program Overview page.

This webinar is schedule to begin at 3:00 p.m. Eastern Time. As a reminder, you must register to attend the webinar. Participants should register for the webinar no later than 10:00 a.m. Eastern Time on the day of the event. To register for this event, use the following link: Webinar Registration.

If clicking the above link does not work, please copy the entire link and paste it into your web browser. A confirmation email will be sent within 24 hours of registration. You may join the associated teleconference 5 minutes prior to the scheduled start.

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NOTE: The intended audiences of these meetings are Transmitters, Software Developers and Issuers/Payers.

If you are a business owner, tax manager, employee benefits manager, health coverage provider, or software developer or transmitter, you can access and review the Affordable Care Act Information Returns Corrections Process video on the IRS Video Portal.

QuickAlerts –September 20, 2016
Subject: Revised Publication 4600 (pdf) now available

Publication 4600, Safeguarding Taxpayer Information Quick Reference Guide for Businesses, has been revised and replaces the previous edition dated October 2008. This PDF version is now available for download on IRS.gov, keywords: Publication 4600.

This publication has been changed from a tri fold publication to a 1 page, front and back, publication as suggested by our e-file industry partners.

The purpose of this publication is to be a quick reference tips to provide information on requirements to safeguard taxpayer information, safeguarding techniques, and data security incidents as provided in details in Publication 4557, Safeguarding Taxpayer Data, A Guide for Your Business.

QuickAlerts –September 22, 2016
Subject: Important Update for e-Services Users

The IRS is committed to protecting taxpayer and tax preparer information and maintaining the security of its systems. As part of that effort, the IRS is strengthening the identity validating process used to access certain self-help tools on IRS.gov.

Starting late October – October 24 is the target date – e-services users will be required to re-register using the Secure Access authentication process. Users must validate their identities through this process before they can access their accounts.

All e-services users will be affected by this change. Those who use e-services for TIN Matching only also must re-register. However, because there is no exchange of sensitive data, TIN Matching will use a more streamlined process.

For details, please see: Important Update for Your e-services Account.

Secure Access is a two-factor authentication process that meets government standards and adds greater protections against attacks by cybercriminals. This is a more rigorous process, and part of a wider effort to protect taxpayers and the tax community. For first-time users, it requires identity proofing, financial verification and an activation code text. Returning users must submit their username/password credentials AND a security code text.

Starting October 24, the IRS also will provide additional staff for the e-Help Desk and provide assistance to those users who are having difficulty passing Secure Access. This assistance may include identity authentication by phone and an activation code by mail which will take five to 10 calendar days for delivery.

The same Secure Access authentication process currently supports Get Transcript Online. E-services users who created a Get Transcript account after June 2016 will have their Secure Access registration automatically migrate to e-services, but they will need to change their passwords on October 24.

It helps to be prepared. Please review [Secure Access: How to Register for Certain Online Self-Help Tools](#) to learn what you need to register successfully.

Users should ensure all credentials and certificates are up-to-date prior to October 24. Those with upcoming filing requirements should consider filing early.

Over the next month we will keep you informed of the next steps involving e-services.

Thank you.

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Users should ensure all credentials and certificates are up-to-date prior to October 24. Those with upcoming filing requirements should consider filing early.

Over the next month we will keep you informed of the next steps involving e-services.

QuickAlerts –September 23, 2016
Subject: TY2016/2017 Schemas and Business Rules are Available for Download

Software Developers and State organizations can now access and download TY2016/2017 Schemas and Business Rules from their e-Services mailbox. In order to access these files you must have an active e-Services account and be listed on an e-File application with the provider option of Software Developer or State. Your role must be Principal, Responsible Official, or Delegated User with MeF authorities.

Instructions for accessing your e-Services mailbox

The following schemas and business rules are available:

• Form 1040 - 2016v2.0
• Form 1041 - 2016v3.0
• Form 1065 - 2016v3.0
• Form 1120 - 2106v3.0
• Form 7004 - 2016v2.0
• Form 990N - 2016v2.0
• Form 990X - 2016v2.0
• Form 2290 - 2016v3.0
• Form 1120 POL - 2106v2.0
• Form 8849 - 2017v2.0
• Form 94X - Processing Year 2017
• Form 720 - 2017Q1-Q4v1.0

You may have more than one message in your account. Please open all of them to find the schema set you would like to download.

We encourage you to review your e-File application at this time to verify you have the appropriate role and to verify you have access to your e-Services account. If you have never registered for e-Services or previously registered and forgotten your password visit e-Services Online Tools for Tax Professionals on IRS.gov

If you do not have these files available for download in your e-Services mailbox please contact the MeF Mailbox with the Company Name, ETIN and Schema Package(s) with Tax Year needed.

Subject: E-file Application URL Registration and Annual Self-Certification

This is a reminder for Online Providers must answer the annual self-certification questions beginning October 1, to ensure they comply with Publication 1345 IRS *e-file* security, privacy and business standards.

If you are an Authorized IRS e-file Provider who owns or operates a Website(s) that collects, transmits, stores or processes taxpayer information, IRS also requires you to register the URL(s) for your Website on your e-file Application. The annual certification process includes the registration of these Websites.

If you have not previously registered your URL(s), select the URL collection link on the e-file Application information page menu to register.

QuickAlerts –September 29, 2016
Subject: Publication 5165, Guide for Electronically Filing Affordable Care Act (ACA) Information Returns Posted

Publication 5165, Guide for Electronically Filing Affordable Care Act (ACA) Information Returns is posted on IRS.gov .

If you have any questions, please send them to the AIR Mailbox.